

Earth Whisperer by Dick Benoit

*Help me whispered mother earth in the 1970s,
And the EPA was formed.*

*Help me whispered Galveston Bay in the new millennium,
And the Galveston Bay Area Naturalists were born.*

*Help me whispered the Texas coastal tallgrass prairies,
And the Prairie Restoration Team was formed.*

*Help me whispered the Texas coastal wetlands,
And the Wetland Restoration Team was formed.*

*Help me whispered the children of Galveston,
And the Island Adventure Program was formed.*

*Help me whispered from mountains across the fruited plains,
Many heeded and the earth was reborn.*

Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists

Volunteers Implementing the
Galveston Bay Plan





Galveston Bay

- Fifth largest bay system in USA
- 30% of US petroleum production
- 40% of US chemical industry
- Serves two of the largest ports in US
- Second largest boating population in US

Galveston Bay's Economic Value...

- More oyster production than any other estuary in the nation – Worth \$20 million/year!
- Largest commercial harvest of blue crabs in Texas – Worth \$10 million/year!
- Annual commercial harvest of shrimp worth \$35 million/year!



Galveston Bay's Challenges...

- 4 million people reside in the five counties surrounding The Bay
- Population is expected to nearly double by 2025



Chapter Growth Since 2001

★ Master Naturalist Training Classes	8
★ Volunteers Trained	192
★ Members Certified	136
★ Members Re-Certified	97
★ Volunteers still working on Certification	16
★ In-Active Members	32
★ Members served on Board	42
★ Number of Chapter and CEO Activities	30
★ Graduation 2005 Attendees	110

Volunteer Service Hours 2005

➤ Texas Parks & Wildlife & Public Parks	4,133
➤ Nature Centers	2,717
➤ Youth Education	1,331
➤ Monitoring of Animals, Plants, Water	1,190
➤ Wetland Projects	633
➤ Wildlife Rehab & Public Education	986
➤ Special Events, Shows, Field Days	1,247
➤ MN Class Training & Assistance	980
➤ Newsletters, Web Site, Member Records	974
➤ GBAC Board & Community Meetings	1,270
➤ Travel Time	4,177
➤ Total Volunteer Hours	19,638 @ \$18.04 hr
➤ Advanced Training	3,159
❖ Savings to Sponsors in 2005	\$354,269
❖ Savings to Sponsors since 2001	\$1,320,318























Training Class Management

- Spring class every year, fall class every other year
- Accept first 20 registrants
- \$130 cost includes \$30 state manual and background check

Roles

- Committee makes decisions
- Julie handles publicity, registration, scheduling and ordering supplies
- I solicit and schedule volunteers, track attendance, give assignments, get feedback, provide report to board
- Volunteers meet and greet, serve coffee & snack, smooze speakers and cosset students.

Class Volunteers

- E-mail volunteer solicitation with job descriptions attached and training date set
- Volunteer scheduling and task chairmanship handled in 15 minute segments
- Task groups function independently
- Mentors are special!



Celebrate!

- End class with a potluck lunch
- Thank volunteers with a party and awards





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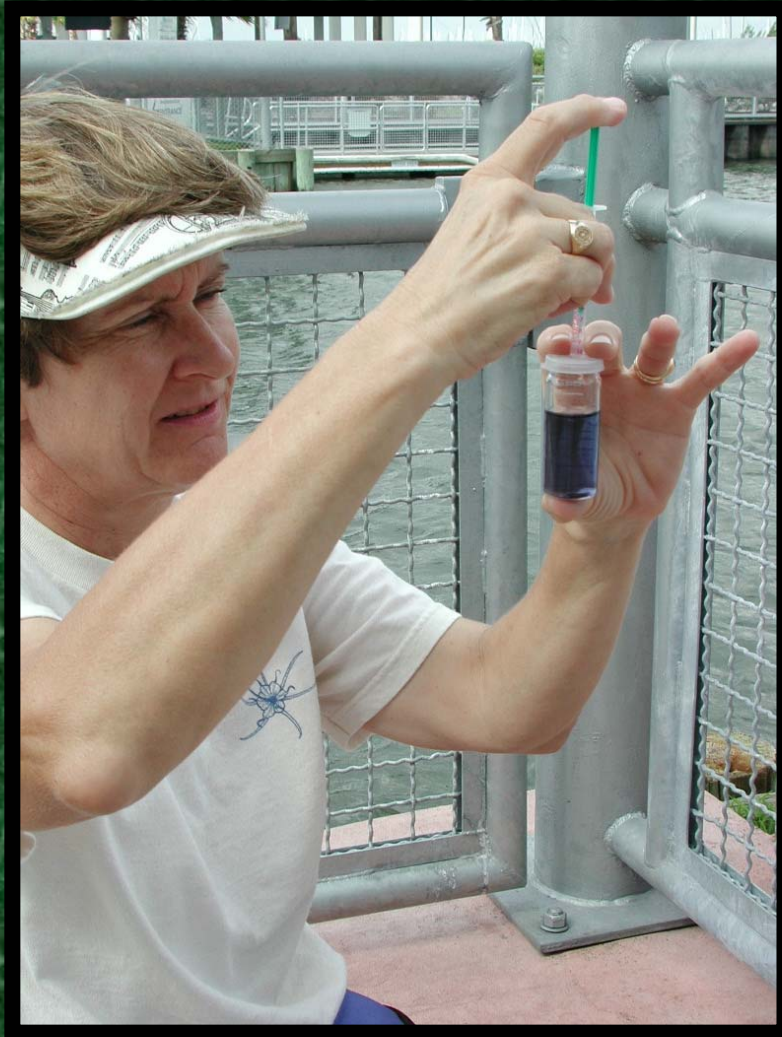








Monitoring Projects



Water Quality

Hawk Migration

Monarch Butterfly

Amphibian

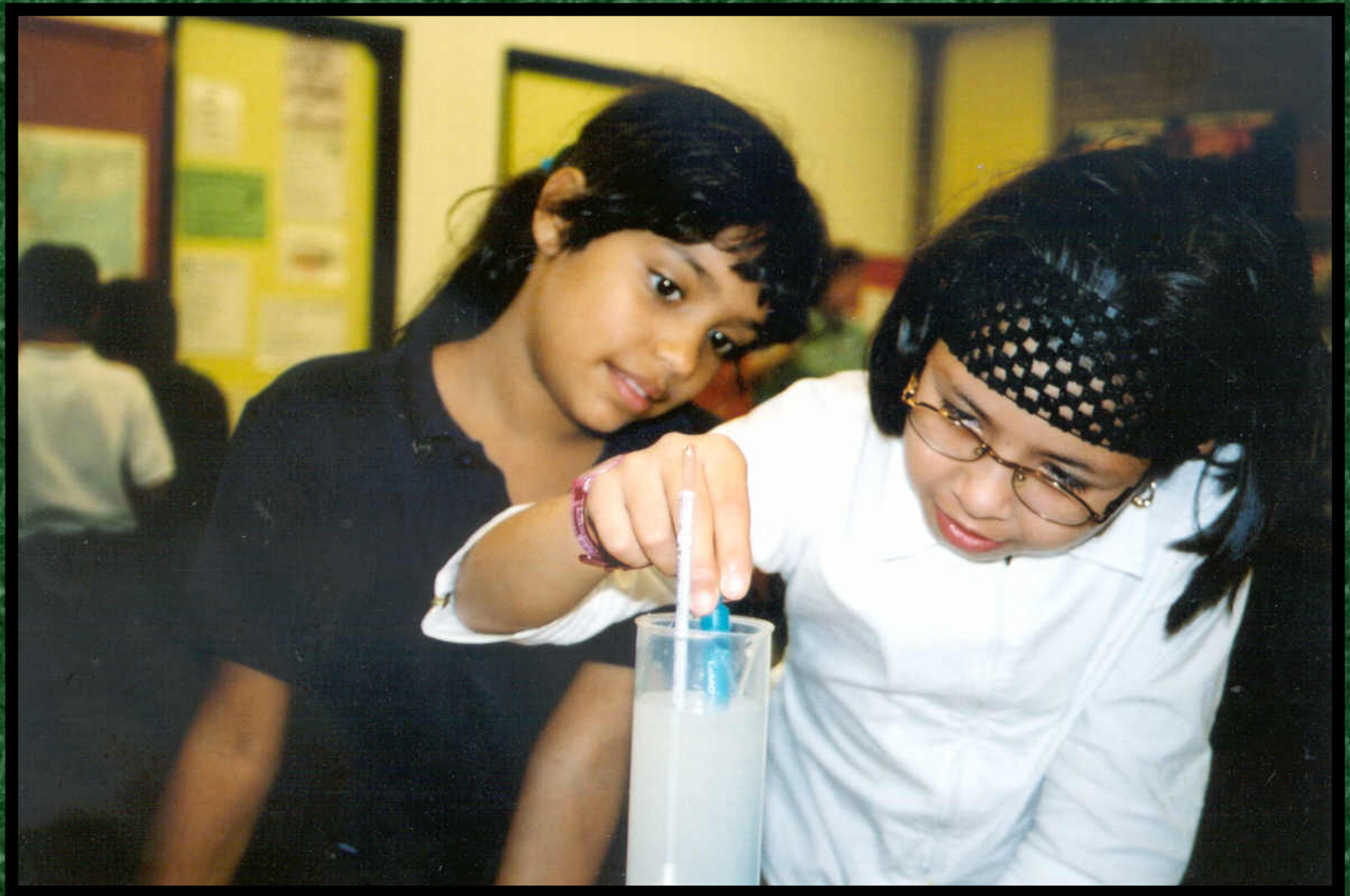
Bats

Invasive Species

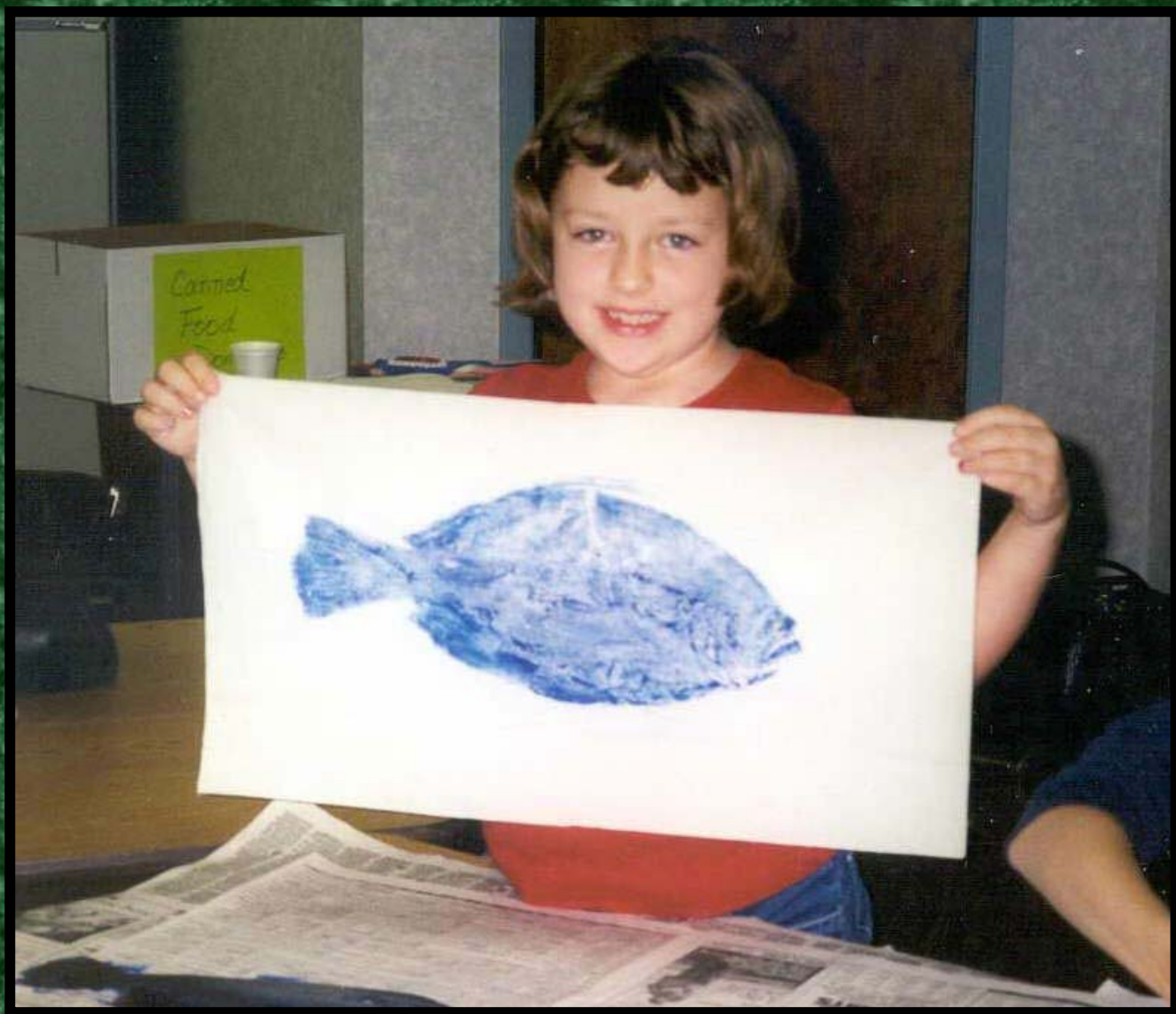




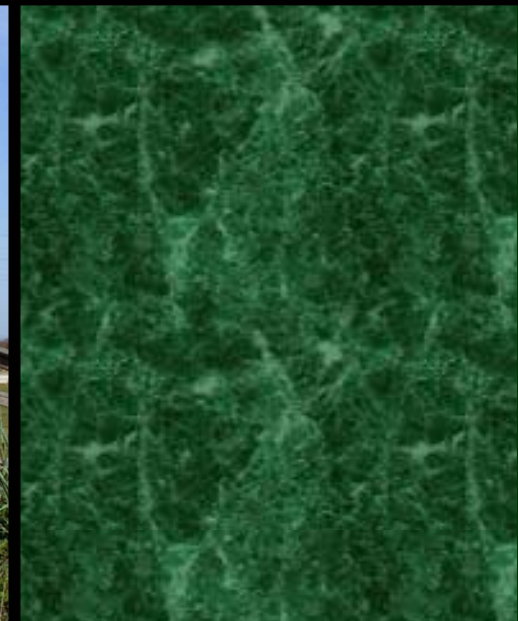


























Allene Edwards Holland
April 1962 - April 1964

Agnes Hunter Leamy
April 1964 - Aug. 1969

Jill Dugat Hancy
Aug. 1969 - May 1990

Mary Ellen Hipp Taylor
May 1990 - May 2000

Sylvia Pereda Garza
May 2000 to May 2004

Debra Faulkner
May 2004 to Pres



Volunteer Management



Volunteer – Freely choose or offer to do something without being obliged and with no compensation expected

Some Don'ts

- No demands
- No patronizing
- No dumping
- No guilt
- No bait and switch
- No gossip

Some Do's

- Be organized and efficient
- Communicate clearly and completely
- Consider individual abilities and interests
- Encourage ownership
- Take care of human needs
- Be tolerant and forgive with grace
- Show gratitude
- Celebrate!

















For more information on the
Galveston Bay Area Master
Naturalist Program,
please visit our website at
<http://www.gbamasternaturalist.org>.

Thanks and enjoy the rest of the
conference!

